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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/783,889	02/20/2004	Roger P. Jackson	10,193	6965
7590	02/23/2006		EXAMINER	
John C. McMahon PO Box 30069 Kansas City, MO 64112			COMSTOCK, DAVID C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3733	
DATE MAILED: 02/23/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1-7, 9-13 and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Morrison et al. (6,296,642; cited by Applicant).

Morrison et al. disclose a medical device comprising a threaded shank 10 and a cylindrical body 12. The shank includes an open head 11 formed by a pair of spaced arms 20 defining a channel 16 therebetween. The head includes mutually facing surfaces with guide and advancement structures 44 that mate with complementary structures on the cylindrical body. The structures comprise a continuous helical flange having reverse angle threads (i.e. threads having a compound contour) facing the closure axis of the device (see Fig. 3). The body includes a multi-surface aperture forming a socket for a tool and a break-off installation head also having such an aperture. Morrison et al. disclose using either hexagonal or star-shaped (i.e. "multi-lobular") tool socket forms (see, e.g., col. 4, lines 2-4). The body includes a V-shaped set ring 64 formed on its forward end (see Fig. 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8, 14 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morrison et al. (6,296,642; cited by Applicant).

Morrison et al. disclose the claimed invention except that Morrison uses reverse angle threads instead of threads having an enlarged peripheral region. However, threads having an enlarged peripheral region and reverse angle threads are functionally equivalent anti-splaying threadforms known in the art. Therefore, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to substitute threads having an enlarged peripheral portion for the reverse angle threads as this would merely involve the substitution of functionally equivalent anti-splaying threadforms known in the art.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 06 December 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., a compound surface defined as *having a trailing or leading surface that is not radially linear*, see Remarks, page 1, line 14-20, emphasis added) are not recited in

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the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). It is also noted that the specification must clearly set forth the definition of a compound leading or trailing surface explicitly and with reasonable clarity, deliberateness, and precision. Exemplification is not an explicit definition. Even explicit definitions can be subject to varying interpretations. See *Teleflex, Inc. v. Ficosa North America Corp.*, 63 USPQ2d 1374, 1381 (Fed. Cir. 2002), *Rexnord Corp. v. Laitram Corp.*, 60 USPQ2d 1851, 1854 (Fed. Cir. 2001), and MPEP 2111.01.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Comstock whose telephone number is (571) 272-


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4710. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached at (571) 272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



D. Comstock
21 February 2006



EDUARDO C. ROBERT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER